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1) Evaluating IT Governance Structure and Practices by Internal Auditors

Internal audit while evaluating the IT governance structure can evaluate several key components that can lead to effective IT governance. These are briefly explained here.

- **Leadership** : Assess the involvement of IT leadership in execution of the organization's strategic goals & Determine how IT will help organization to achieve goals.
- **Organizational Structure** : Review how management and IT personnel are interacting and communicating across the organization & also include understanding of their roles and reporting to appropriate authorities.
- **Processes**: Evaluate What processes are used by the IT organization to support the IT environment.
- **Risks** : Review the processes used by the IT organization to identify, assess, and mitigate risks within the IT environment;
- **Controls** : Assess key controls that are defined by IT to manage its activities.
- **Performance Measurement/Monitoring**: Evaluate the framework and systems in place to measure Role of IT in organization outcome.

2) Sample Areas of GRC for Review by Internal Auditors

Sample areas of Governance, Risk and Compliance which can be reviewed by internal auditors are as follows:

- **Scope** : Internal audit activity must evaluate and improve governance, risk management, and control processes using a systematic approach.
- **Governance** : Internal audit activity must assess and make recommendations for improving the governance process.
- **Evaluate Enterprise Ethics** : Internal audit activity must evaluate the design, implementation, and effectiveness of the organisation's ethics and whether it is related to organisation's objectives.
- **Interpretation** : Internal audit activity must determine whether risk management processes are effective, Significant risks are identified and assessed, and Appropriate risk responses are selected which are within organisation's risk appetite.
- **Risk Management Process** : Internal audit activity may gather several information's during visits. The results of these visits, when viewed

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together should provide an understanding of the organisation's risk management processes and their effectiveness.

- **Evaluate Risk Exposures:** The internal audit activity must evaluate risk exposures relating to the organization with regards to strategic objectives; Reliability of financial and operational information and Compliance with laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and contracts.
- **Evaluate Fraud and Fraud Risk :** Internal audit activity must evaluate the potential for the occurrence of fraud .
- **Address Adequacy of Risk Management Process :** Internal auditors must address risk which are consistent with business objectives and also alert for other significant risks.

3) Sample Areas of Review of Assessing and Managing Risks

- Risk management ownership;
- Different kinds of IT risks (technology, security, continuity, regulatory, etc.);
- Defined and communicated risk tolerance profile;
- Risk mitigation measures;
- Quantitative and/or qualitative risk measurement;
- Risk assessment methodology, and
- Risk action plan and timely reassessment.

4) Management Practices for Assessing and Evaluating the Internal Controls System in an Enterprise As per COBIT 5 :

- **Monitor Internal Controls:** Continuously monitor, set benchmark and improve the IT control environment to meet organisational objectives;
- **Review Business Process Controls Effectiveness :** Review the operation of controls to ensure that controls within the business processes operate effectively.
- **Perform Control Self-assessments :** Encourage management for self-assessment to evaluate the completeness and effectiveness of management's control over processes, policies and contracts and for improvements;
- **Identify and Report Control Deficiencies :** Identify control deficiencies and analyze the reason for deficiencies and report to management;

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- **Ensure that Assurance Providers are Independent and Qualified:**
Ensure that the independent entities are performing assurance activities and adhere to codes of professional standards;
- **Plan Assurance Activities :** Assurance activities should be planned based on enterprise objectives, strategic priorities, and sufficient knowledge of the enterprise;
- **Scope of Assurance Activities :** Define and agree with management on the scope of the assurance activities, based on the assurance objectives;
- **Execute Assurance Activities:** Execute the planned assurance activity. Provide opinion & recommendations for improvement where seems appropriate.